



CONVENTION *of* STATES ACTION MARYLAND

7451 Jennifer Way
Sykesville, MD 21784

Good Morning,

My name is Bob Betz. I live in District 9A along with 800 other voters who want Maryland to call for an Article V Amendments Convention. Those 800 voters and I have one message for you today: Please send HJ 6 to the full House of Delegates, for a full and fair discussion, debate and vote.

There is a piece of disinformation related to a convention of states that this committee is qualified to address, the claim that there are no rules governing how a convention would operate. That's true, but the Constitution doesn't have rules for how to do anything. It's a Framework, not a Recipe.

The Constitution tells us to create a Congress and gives it all the country's law-making power. But it doesn't tell Congress HOW to make laws. A Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader are never mentioned, yet the positions exist and have important legislative roles.

The Constitution makes presidents responsible for executing laws passed by Congress, but doesn't say how to do that. Executive Orders aren't mentioned but they are a common presidential tool that no one of the opposite side of the aisle politically likes and they are definitely not constitutional yet both sides use them at will now.

As an example, Article III says that we must have a Supreme Court, judges keep their job as long as they are good, and they can't have their pay cut. That's it. No other rules.

To quote Constitutional Scholar David Barton, "John Roberts at a card table with a candle meets the constitutional requirement for a Supreme Court". And yet John Roberts sits on a functioning Supreme Court with 8 fellow justices doing a job the Constitution requires but doesn't the Constitution does not lay out rules for how to do it.

Getting back to amendments, there are no rules for how Congress proposes amendments, and yet Congress has both proposed and adopted amendments 27 times, using no rules and exactly the same authority they granted to a Convention of States.

In addition, we often hear of a scary RUNAWAY convention. This is simply not possible when passing HJ6. All the states across the country that have passed this resolution, are passing the same one. It allows the convention to address only 3 items, fiscal restraint, federal overreach and term limits. There is no avenue for a RUNAWAY invention. Furthermore, it is not a CON CON.

It will be a Convention of the States, not a constitutional convention. These two hot button words used to try and scare legislators away from hearing the voice of the people and from each other and us, are simply and quite blatantly FALSE words used to keep a meeting of the states from happening. From constituents' voices from being heard.

As you're hearing in other testimony, we've already held conventions of states many times. People just don't recognize them as such. So what rules did they use? They simply looked at how they were done every time before and did it again the same way. The process works wonderfully.

This is my fourth year testifying to this committee. Please give us the consideration this year that you give other business before you. Vote on favorably on our resolution, and send it to House with a favorable recommendation.

Good Afternoon, Bob Betz, State Information Analyst, robert.betz@cosaction.com